

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments, in light of the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

An IDS is filed herewith.

Amendments

Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to recite that the air outlets direct the air substantially inwardly from the boundary wall, and new claim 14 recites the same; the claims dependent from new claim 14 parallel allowed claims 2 and 4-7. As explained in the application, for example, at page 2 (lines 5-13), page 3 (lines 20-22), page 5 (lines 5-7), page 6 (lines 32-33), and especially page 7 (lines 32-36), the invention differs from the art by having the air flow directed only substantially inwardly towards the tray, not vertically from the work surface or vertically from the wall. No new matter is added.

The Nouri reference (DE-2836708; translations submitted) discloses in Fig. 2 a device having a structure where air is directed vertically from the wall (26, directions shown by 29) and vertically from the work surface (27). The present amendments and the new claim 14 exclude air flow directed vertically from the work surface or the outer boundary structure. As explained in the application, ventilation vertically through the work surface provides an envelope of air inherently disrupted by the instruments placed on the work surface, and perhaps more importantly, increases the risk of entraining into the air stream droplets of bodily fluid on instruments lying on the work surface.

It is believed that the claims are allowable and a Notice of Allowance would be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.